FREE INDIA

36th Year Of Publication ★ August 24, 1975 ★ 20 Paise

★

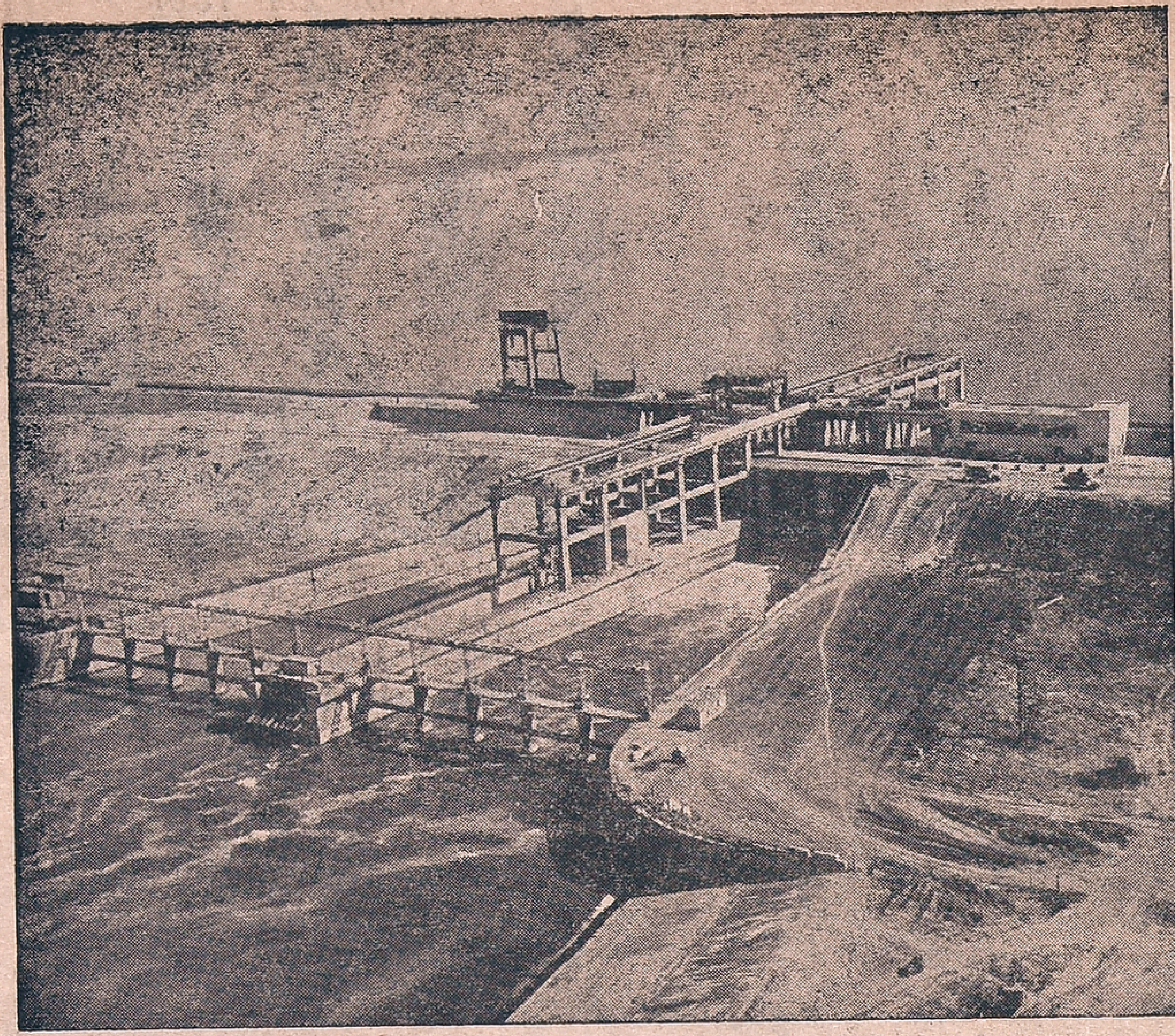
Madras has been put on the T. V. map of India from August 15.

The first telecast was inauguarated by Tamil Nadu Governor, Mr. K. K. Shah.

A brief report on the inaugural function appears on page 4.

★

SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY



The Krasnodar water-reservoir was built for irrigating paddy fields.

Blueprints of new rice-growing state farms.

KUBAN RICE

Rice is the staple food of half of mankind. It also occupies a prominent place in the diet of some Soviet people, particularly in Central Asian republics.

Although rice in the Soviet Union is grown in such republics as the Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, half of the total production is by collective farms and state farms in the Russian Federation, largest of the 15 Union republics. The Krasnodar Territory, otherwise known as the Kuban, accounts for 70 per cent of Russian rice with production centred along the banks of the Kuban river.

By 1980 it is planned to increase the area under rice in this Territory. The vast areas in the estuary of the Kuban river grown over with reeds are being developed for rice production. This virgin land is being transformed into plantations by a special state organisation employing 30,000 workers and specialists with its own industrial enterprises, scientific centres as well as educational establishments for training machine-operators and personnel for land-amelioration work.

Rice production was taken up nearly 40 years ago by the Krasnoarmeisky state farm in the Krasnodar Territory. This state farm has about 6,0 0 hectares under rice. During the last season the rice crop was handled by 150 harvester-combines. The threshed rice was transported from the plantation by 150 tractor-trailers and 100 lorries with work going on from sunrise to sundown. The Krasnoarmeisky state farm annually harvests over 50,000 tons of rice.

Although rice is a labour-intensive crop, it is, at the same time, also most profitable. The Soviet state buys rice from the farms at high and stable prices. Much of what has in recent years been built on the Krasnoarmeisky state farm has been done from the income from rice. This includes a Palace of Culture, clubs, a stadium, two holiday-homes and a music school. Every family has a house of five-six rooms. Many have cars or motor-cycles.

The future of rice production in the Krasnoarmeisky state

(Contd. on page 11)

The Kuban Rice-growers reap 56 centners of grain per hectare.

Alexander Grigorenko, machine-operator at state farm Krasnoarmeisky.

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New Economic Programme Helps Bring Down Prices

By S. L. SAH, Special Correspondent, The Times of India

The most encouraging aspect of the present price situation is that inflation appears to have halted. But it would be rash to conclude that the economy has finally turned the corner and is in for a period of balance and stability. The present happy trend will have to be sustained over a period of time for any firm conclusions to be drawn.

However, much has happened on the price front in the last few months, particularly in the last few weeks, to encourage the policy-makers and administrators to hope that at long last inflation is being tamed. Up to June last year, inflation had gallopped at the annual rate of over 28 per cent. But now a "zero" rate of inflation has been reached. This is a remarkable achievement considering that inflation continues to ravage the economies of many countries across the world.

It is also heartening that prices are falling in the lean period when normally prices, particularly of foodgrains, spurt. At the end of June rabi grain arrivals in the market peter out. During the monsoon there is a trickle of arrivals and prices tend to increase until the kharif crop is in. This traditional pattern of price behaviour has been upset this year. The last rabi crop was no doubt excellent but that is not a sufficient explanation of the behaviour of prices. Rabi production has been satisfactory in some other years also but prices increased in the lean period in these years. The current price trends must rather be explained in terms of fiscal and monetary measures initiated last year and the rigorous enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act since the proclamation of Emergency.

"THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT"

A large number of persons have been held under the Essential Commodities Act and the Defence of India Rules for hoarding, blackmarketing, failure to display prices, and similar offences. Raids in important business centres by the Forward Markets Commission have curbed speculative activities. According to reports received by the Industry and Civil Supplies Ministry, wholesale prices of foodgrains have dropped in varying degrees in a number of States. An interesting aspect of the price behaviour this year is that the time lag for the decline in wholesale prices to percolate to the retail level has been considerably reduced. Normally, it takes six to eight weeks for retail prices to respond to the fall in wholesale prices. But with the emergency this time lag has been cut. Nevertheless, retail prices of many articles do not yet fully reflect the down trend at the wholesale level, as the Finance Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, pointed out the other day. But this is also a problem of making distribution more efficient.

FAVOURABLE MONSOONS

The down trend in grain prices will be sustained by the timely onset of the monsoon. The rainfall so far has been well-distributed in most of the States. The States in the eastern region have been some what deficient in rainfall. Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Rajasathan and Gujarat which faced a protracted drought last year-have done well. The monsoon has been somewhat feeble in some pockets in eastern U.P., Haryana, Rayalaseema and Telengana. The overall picture, however, is one of cheer and expectancy. Punjab has launched a drive to achieve a kharif production of 23.50 lakh tonnes compared with 22.35 lakh tonnes last year. For the first time in four years U.P. has had a really favourable monsoon. A production target of 76 lakh tonnes has been set compared with the actual output of nearly 58.23 lakh tonnes last year. During the year about 30 lakh hectares of kharif area in the State was irrigated. This year irrigation is to be provided to 36 lakh hectares.

For the last three years the southern districts of Haryana have suffered from drought. This year, however, the situation is better and a target of 12 lakh tonnes has been set. There is to be a 55 per cent increase in the output of rice and 75 per cent in Bajra. In Madhya Pradesh, the kharif target is 70.60 lakh tonnes. The total area under the highyielding variety will be eleven and a half lakh hectares compared with 10 lakh hectares last year. In West Bangal, the Government expects that the 'aman' crop will be better this year. There has been some diversion from jute to paddy because of the fall in jute prices last year.

POWER SITUATIGN

The considerable improvement in the power situation in most States should also help the kharif operations. Last year in some States, such as Punjab, Haryana and West U.P., power had to be diverted from other uses to transplantation of paddy seedlings as an emergency measure. But this year there is enough power available for agricultural operations and diesels for pumps where the monsoon has been sluggish. The availability of pesticides is also much better.

CHEAPER FERTILISERS

The cut in the prices of various varieties of fertilisers ranging from 75 rupees to 200 rupees a tonne should help increase the consumption of fertilisers. There is enough fertiliser in the country. The godowns of factories and wholesalers are bulging. But consumption by farmers had been stagnating because of the sharp increases of fertiliser prices last year in the wake of the rise in crude oil prices. The oil crisis had enforced an economy in the use of fertilisers. A programme had been hurriedly drawn up in consultation with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the Fertiliser Association of India for making a regulated use of fertilisers apparently without any adverse effects. But the Union Agriculture Ministry has not been happy with having to hold down the consumption of fertilisers. The consumption has tended to fall off in some areas which are critical from the point of view of stepping up food production The Ministry's plans for augmenting food output depend on increasing use of fertilisers, apart from other inputs. Continued stagnation in the use of fertilisers would certainly have acted as a drag on production. Now that prices have been slashed, it is reasona-

(Contd. on page 10)

The only magic to remove poverty

- Hard work
- Clear vision
- Iron will
- Strictest discipline

—MRS. INDIRA GANDHI

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

It is the acid test of non-violence that in a non-violent conflict there is no rancour left behind, and in the end the enemies are converted into friends. That was my experience in South Africa, with General Smuts. He started with being my bitterest opponent and critic. Today he is my warmest friend.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Aug. 24. 1975.

RURAL UPLIFT

Steps have been launched in earnest to implement parts of the 20 point programme touching rural life.

Chief Ministers of congress states, who met recently in New Delhi discussed in detail measures necessary to remove hurdles in the way of land reforms and ensure credit for the new farmers who have become owners.

Rural banks with a distinct character of their own to meet the special requirements of the neglected sections in the villages are to be set up.

But it takes time for such banks to get established. Already Cooperative Banks are doing good work in some progressive states, especially in meeting the credit requirements of rural areas. By pumping in a little more finance and with changes in their set up, these cooperative banks can be made to show better results.

Smaller farms and timely financial help will go a long way in improving productivity. Together with these, organisation of farm labour on sound and responsible trade union lines will also help.

When the purchasing power of our rural millions is increased, the general economic condition of the whole country will improve. And end to poverty will be within sight.

Britain's War Against Inflation

By HAROLD HUTCHINSON

WHEN the trade unions agree with the British Government, as they have done, that their members' standard of living must fall slightly in the next year instead of rising, something very important must have happened.

Very simply, what has happened is that the British people as a whole have got thoroughly fed up with inflation. They want no repetition of the past year in which inflation reached a level of 25 per cent.

In the past, Britain had become accustomed to a much lower rate of inflation, of the order of 4 or 5 per cent a year, or sometimes a bit more. It tolerated this as a price worth paying for the full employment enjoyed over the past 30 years.

But that accustomed rate began to rise very fast indeed, with those sensational increases in world prices of raw materials —wheat and other basic foods and, above all, oil.

What happened then is easy enough to understand. The British workers did not put up world prices They just had to pay them, and inevitably they demanded big increases in their wages; and in industrial States with free trade unions there is really not much that either Governments or employers can do except pay.

If powerful groups of workers in key industries are prepared to strike, resistance can be prohibitively costly and nationally damaging. For their part, the workers involved will be quite convinced that all they are doing is fighting for a fair deal, which is the least they deserve.

FAIR DEAL

To tell them they are ruining the country will simply strike them as absurd. What they know is that their wives demand more money each week, and the idea that a few pounds a week for them is going to make any difference to the prices all around them seems quite unreal.

In Britain a sense of fair play operates in every field, including pay. If one group has got more pay, then so must others. The process is irresistible. And people reluctant or unable to go on strike, such as civil servants, university lecturers, doctors and others, must sooner or later have their pay raised too. So must 8m State pensioners.

Governments can impose, and have imposed, pay standstills, and since people are generally law-abiding these are widely obeyed. But even so they create so many anomalies that they have to be abandoned.

The Government could of course work through the money supply and taxation to produce a recession and unemployment which, if severe enough, would itself modify wage claims. But the cost to the nation in terms of lost production and investment is very high, and in any case the Government that used such measures would almost certainly be defeated in the next election.

Governments have therefore sought agreement with the unions for voluntary pay restraint, or for "social contracts". These efforts have worked briefly but, human nature being what it is, once any group breaks the voluntary and flimsy barriers everybody else will sooner or later do the same.

It is too easy to say that the Government should impose a law. What penalty can the State exact for the "crime" of getting a bigger pay packet? Put the men in prison? Just try it. Half the country would stop work tomorrow in protest.

The right to withhold one's labour is held to be sacrosanct because the British believe it is fundamental to a free society.

ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE

No, the reality is that the only way the British will ever put their rights into temporary cold storage is when public opinion becomes as near-unanimous as it can in peace-time, and agrees to do so. That is the position now.

The people have had enough of inflation. They have agreed to a limit on pay increases for a year to bring the rate of inflation down to 10 per cent. The idea is to bring it lower still in following years.

There are no legal penalties for workers who demand more than the agreed maximum, for the simple reason that if public opinion is not strong enough to prevent them doing so then the law would be of little use. There are, however, penalties on employers who pay more. They will simply not be allowed to put their prices up.

And the Government itself, and the nationalised industries, will have to operate within strict cash limits.

In effect, the people have at last accepted what Governments have been telling them for years. It took time, and a 25 per cent. level of inflation, to get the message across.

It is doubtful if this process could have been hurried. In free countries, people do not learn from articles by economists, which they do not read, or from speeches, which they do not necessarily believe. They learn from experience.

This can be slow, and very irritating to Governments, but then we all learned long ago that politics is the art of the possible.

It has now become possible to wage a real war against inflation in Britain. So much so, in fact, that it is seriously said that if we had a referendum on the control of wages and salaries the majority could be as high as three to one.

Assuming that is true, and it probably is, then the prospect of reversing the inflationary trend is rather good.

TV in Madras

Day and night they toiled Director Sri T. Muralidharan and his staff. They put off food, sleep, everything to condence three month's work into three weeks. The job was done. T.V. came to Madras on Independence day and inaugural function was a grand success.

Three pretty nymphs occassionally joined by a fourth received the invitees at the gate with a truly traditional welcome. It furned out that they belonged to the TV staff. If was like going to attend a marriage. The T.V. staff were on their toes. Everything went off well. There were cool drinks for all.

The studio has only limited accomodation. This fact was clearly stated on the invitation. The participants alone were taken into the studio.

Throughout, the TV staff were courteous. Someone with good taste had been responsible for the illumination of the building which was simple yet exquisite.

A word of praise for the police posted there. They were cheerful, yet firm in maintaining orderliness. —A. ARUMUGAM

ON THE COVER

In front of the tastefully illuminated new Madras Television Centre Miss Usha Mahadevan escorts a guest to the Shamiana; Namagiripettai Krishnan and party entertain the invitees; The lovely maidens offering a truly traditional welcome at the entrance are Jayalakshmi, Bhuvaneswari and Usha Mahadevan, all serving on the T.V. Staff; An enthralled audience watches the working of the T.V. sets; Educational T.V. producer Sri T.S. Narayanaswami makes a film of Raj Bhavan for a T.V. feature while Capt. Srikant, A.D.C. to the Governor looks through the view finder of the T.V Camera; In the group are Alexander, V. Nallathambi V. Sriram, M.V. Jayalakshmi, Vijaylakshmi, Seetharaman, K. Bhuvaneswari, Fazluddin, Sheik Hussain, Inspector Rayman Jabbar and Dr. Vishnu Sarma; Sri Sundarlal Nahata and Union Minister for Information and Braodcasting Sri. V. C. Shukla receive the Governor, Sri K.K. Shah on his arrival to inaugurate T.V. telecast. Also in the picture are Sri P.C. Chatterjee, Director General A.I.R. and Sri Sundaram, Dy. Secretary, Public Relations, Tamil Nadu; A View of the Audience at the Shamiana. (Photographs by A. Arumugam and composition of pictures by Vishnu)

Self Supporting Cottage Industries

THE weaves silks and cottons in beautiful designs which are sold in the most expensive shops in Indian cities. His decorations are a must for luxury homes in India and abroad. Yet he himself, an ordinary rural artisan, the backbone of the Indian cottage industry, lives below the poverty line.

The draft Fifth Plan has recognised his plight and those of others like him. Therefore, the principal objective of the Fifth Plan is to increase consumption standards through the creation of large scale oppurtunities for fuller and additional, productive employment and improvement of skills to improve levels of earning. An important difference in the approach towards the development of village and small industries as envisaged in the Fourth Plan and the draft Fifth Plan is that steps are being taken to facilitate the flow of institutional credit in a much larger measure than in the past, particularly for the traditional industries sector.

Programmes will be reoriented to step up the production of some of the basic and essential articles for the masses and also the products which have a larger potential for export. Briefly, the programmes for the states and union territories consist of schemes for giving financial aid at reasonable rate of interest, technical advice, provision of training and common service facilities, supply of improved tools, factory accomodation and marketing assistance. The Central Programmes for the development of these industries include provision of extension services, training, research and improved designs. A Centrally sponsored scheme of the rural industries project has also been under implementation since 1962-63. Progressively larger allocation of funds has been made for the development of these industries under the successive five year plans.

Small industries have been protected. Special spheres of production are reserved for the small sector; there is a restriction on the expansion of the capacity offlarge industries; there are differential excise duties and grants of rebate on the sale of the products of a few small industries. Certain varieties of cotton cloth, for instance, are reserved for production by the handloom industry. Rebate is allowed on sales of handloom and khadi cloth. Differential excise duties have been levied on products like match and footwear. Expansion of capacity in both the small as well asl the large scale sectors is being regulated through the industrial licensing system in the case of oil seeds crushing, leather and matches. Besides 177, items are reserved for exclusive development in the small scale sector.

The programmes for the development of the village and small industries sector have continued to be accorded on important role in the scheme of national planning since the First Five Year Plan. A major step taken during the first plan was the establishment of All-India Boards to advise and assist in the formulation of programmes for their development. The main objective for the development programmes for these industries as set out in the Industrial Policy Resolution 1856 and the subsequent Plans was to create large scale employment oppurtunities at a relatively small capital cost.

Establishment of these industries involves a comparatively shorter gestation period and their products have helped in earning an increasignly larger amount of foreign exchange through exports.

India to try out new fertiliser technique

Experiments are to be carried out in India into the effect on home crops of injecting liquid ammonia fertiliser direct into the soil.

A package-deal scheme for the use of such application is provided by L. & K. Fertilisers Ltd., of Saxilby, Lincolnshire, which was visited last month by Dr. S. P. Dhua, Chief Agricultural Scientist, Fertiliser Corporation of India, and Mr. N. M. Vachhrajani, a zonal marketing manager for the Corporation.

They saw a demonstration of the technique, and afterwards Dr. Dhua said he thought it would be useful in India. He would institute experiments with the technique on maize, sugar cane, sorghum (jowar) and other dryland crops, he said.

Dr. Dhua and Mr. Vachhrajani were on a brief visit to Britain. Dr. Dhua later left for France on his way to India, while Mr Vachhrajani went on to the United States.

Britain Orders Six Cargo Ships From India

A shipping firm in Britain has placed a Rs. 11 crore order with Mazagon Dock, Bombay, for six cargo vessels—the first export order to be received by any Indian shipbuilder from Britain.

The order—finalised by Rear Admiral E.C. Kuruvila, chairman and managing director of the dock, and its two general managers during a recent visit to the United Kingdom—is for single-screw vessels of 3 800 DWT capacity with an overall length of 90 5 metres and a draught of 5.5 metres.

The first ship will be delivered by November 1976 and the rest at four-month intervals.

Work More, Talk Less.

"EMERGENCY-anushasan parva"

—Acharya Vinoba Bhave

NEW GAINS

Marked improvement in every sphere of national activity

- Fall in prices of essential commodities.
- Increased production. More power.
- Improved industrial relations.
- Strikes, lock-outs and bandhs disappear.
- Distinct reduction in crime, violence and other anti-social activities.
- Punctuality and efficiency in offices.
- People working harder.
- The rate of inflation down from 30 1% in April 1974 to minus 2.1% on July 19, 1975.
- More and better agricultural inputs and credit facilities for farmers.
- Public distribution system streamlined.
- Adequate supply of kerosene for all States.
- Production of controlled cloth to go up from 100 million square metres in 1974 to 160 million square metres this year.
- 2.5 lakh new cooking gas connections for consumers annually.
- Production of 117 essential drugs to be stepped up.
- Cement to cost less in inaccessible and hill areas.
- Tax relief for middle income groups.
- A greater sense of discipline has emerged.

help implement Shrimati Indira Gandhi's

20 POINT PROGRAMME

work hard, produce more and maintain discipline

davp 75/210

FUN AND LAUGHTER

NOT SO FOOLISH

An office boy on a large newspaper was regarded by the staff as not too bright. This impression was furthered when one of them offered him the choice of a dime or nickel. After a moment's hesitation the boy took the nickel. The staff played the trick over and over again with the same result. Finally, a soft-hearted proof-reader took the lad aside for a fatherly talk, "My boy," he said, "you're making yourself appear ridiculous, taking the nickle each time. The nickel is larger, but the smaller coin is worth twice as much. Then why do you always chose the nickel?"

The boy grinned impishly and replied "Well, if I took the dime I'd never have another chance at the game."

* * *

BEYOND REPAIR

A cobbler christened his establishment "The Boot Hospital" A customer brought him a pair of boots which would have disgraced a tramp.

"Shouldn't have these mended if I were you," said the cobbler. "I would throw' em away."

"But I want them mended," was the reply. "This is supposed to be a hospital for boots, not a mortuary."

* * *

SYMPATHY

It was sale time and the shop walker of a big store recently noticed a mournful-looking man wandering round the establishment.

"Are you looking for something, sir?" he inquired.

"Yes," said the other pathetically. "I have lost my wife," and his gaze hopelessly scanned the crowds.

To his surprise the shopwalker assumed a sympathetic air and said, 'Mourning goods first on the left, sir."

* * *

WONDERFUL

He was explaining for his wife's instruction exactly why the bank rate stood at its present figure, why the economic depression existed, and how it could be cured.

"It seems wonderful," she said at last, "that anyone could know as much about money as you do and have so little."

INITIATING

The proprietor of a successful optical business was instructing his son how to charge a customer.

"My boy," he said, after you have fitted the glasses and he asks what the charge will be, you say: 'The charge is £2.' Then pause and wait too see if he flinches. If the customer doesn't flinch, you then say, 'For the frames. The lenses will be another £2.' Then you pause again, this time only slightly, and watch for the flinch. If the customer doesn't flinch, you say firmly, Each.' "

* * *

THE CONNOISSEUR

The Club bore was boasting of his ability to distinguish between different beverages. Finally one of the listeners took a flask from his pocket and asked the connoisseur to taste it and tell him what it was. The man tasted a mouthful and promptly spat it out. "Great Scott!" he cried. "That's gasoline!"

"I know," came the bland reply. "But what brand?"

* * *

HIS CONDITIONS

The Landlord eyed his prospective tenant coldly, "I must remind you" he said "that I will not tolerate children, dogs, cats or parrots. And no Radio. Is that clear?"

"Yes, sir," said the tenant meekly. "But I think you ought to know that my fountain pen scratches a little."

* * *

A GI with the occupation troops in Germany received a cable from his girl which read, "Couldn't wait for you so have married your father. Love, Mother."

* * *

BUSINESS !

The locality was amazed at the apparent generosity of the local tobacconist.

He advertised that every customer would receive a gift of a cigar-lighter and a coat-hanger. The sealed packets were stacked upon the counter.

When opened they were found to contain a match and a nail.

* * *

EXPERIENCE

'Something's wrong with me, Grandmother," sighed the young lady. "I've been a birdesmaid twice, I caught the bride's bouquet too, but I'm still single."

"Well dear," advised Grandma, "next time don't reach for the flowers reach for the best man."

* * *

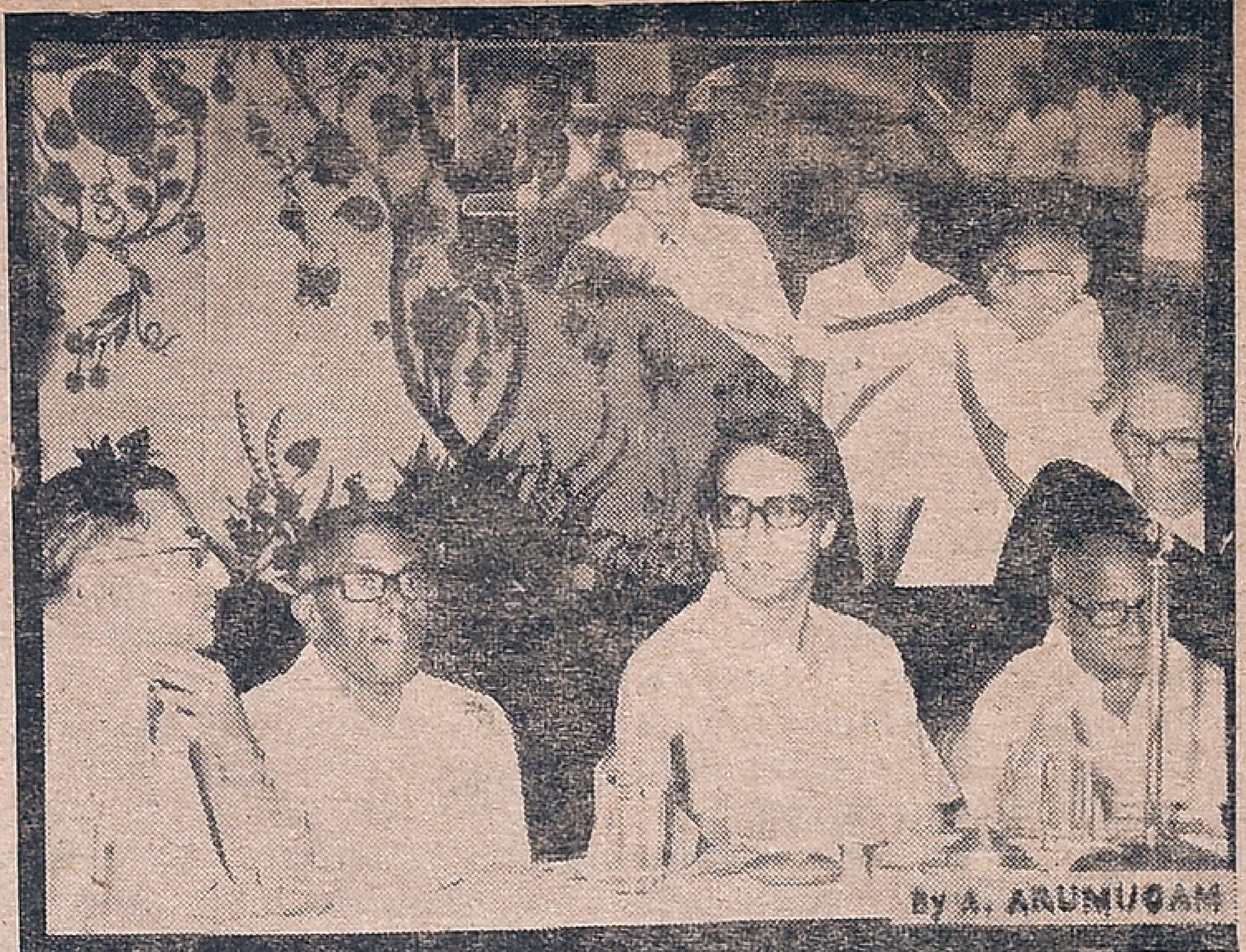
AFTER A

"Archie," asked the teacher of the new pupil, "do you know your alphabet?"

"Yes, miss," answered Archie.

"Well then," continued the teacher, "what letter comes after A?"

'All of 'em," was the reply.



By a most fitting and dramatic gesture Sri Sunderlal Nahata is evidently trying to impress upon Union Minister Sri Shukla the manner in which the film industry is being strangled by taxes, while Sri Shukla (working on quite a different wavelength) wonders how soon he will be furnished with the names of law breakers and tax evaders in the industry by its leaders of integrity. President of the F P.G.S.I. Sri R M.Veerappan reflects, while Chamber President Sri Pulliah gazes at the empty plates before him. The inset picture shows the Minister is being sent off by Sri Pulliah, Sri Veerappan and others.

—Photos By A. ARUMUGAM.

SIFCC Felicitates Union Minister Shukla

By A. ARUMUGAM

The engagement column of the evening English Paper stated that Union Minister for Information Sri V. C. Shukla would be chief guest of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce. When I reached the place, before we realised what had happened the Union Minister had arrived and we were herded into the hall for lunch at a top-star hotel.

It was generous of the S.I.F.C.C. to provide a lunch for the gathering. It is not their fault that the stuff they served was stale (new hotel-technology enabling long term storage of perishables?) and the service was terrible; but as the top brass of the hotel were personally in attendance on the chief guest, he might have had no cause for complaint. The hotel staff are not to be blamed either because they were busy attending to the little matters like decorating the dishes or lighting the candles or adjusting their black bow-ties. Naturally concentration on these minutae meant that the diner has to let the rice go dry on his plate hoping that something will come sometime to keep it company. A Govt. official sitting across the table was full of praise for the water that was quite natural and undoctored by specialists in exotic cousine!

What was the actual problem facing film producers? Why had they got the Minister and feted him, garlanded him, covered him with a ponnadai and presented him with an expensive momento? Before the speeches began the hotel people switched on 'Jana-gana mana' but luckily it was soon switched off and the gathering remained.

Like the proverbial boy who gets little attention because he is shouting "wolf, wolf" all the time, the oft repeated statement "Fillim industry faces crisis" "Fillim industry in doldrums" evoked little response. A memorandum with printed matter on seven and a half sides was presented to the Minister and distributed to some of the persons gathered. There was more demand for it than the ice cream. Probably they did not realise that the icecream was good.

Sri P. Pulliah, President of S.I.F.C.C. stated that the steep elevation of censorship fees was unfortunate and it was fortunate that the implementation of this unilateral decision had been deferred.

Sri Veerappan, President, Film Producer's guild of South India, offered full cooperation to Govt. and pleaded that the shaky industry may not be toppled.

Minister Shukla generously agreed to presume that each member was an honest person until it was disproved. However he wanted members to furnish the names of law breakers and anti-social practitioners.

Sri D. Ramanujam, Secretary of the Chamber, a person of great tact, diplomacy and charm spoke in such soothing words that placated and pleased his associates and the minister. He offered full and unreserved cooperation.

Efficiency should be our watchword.

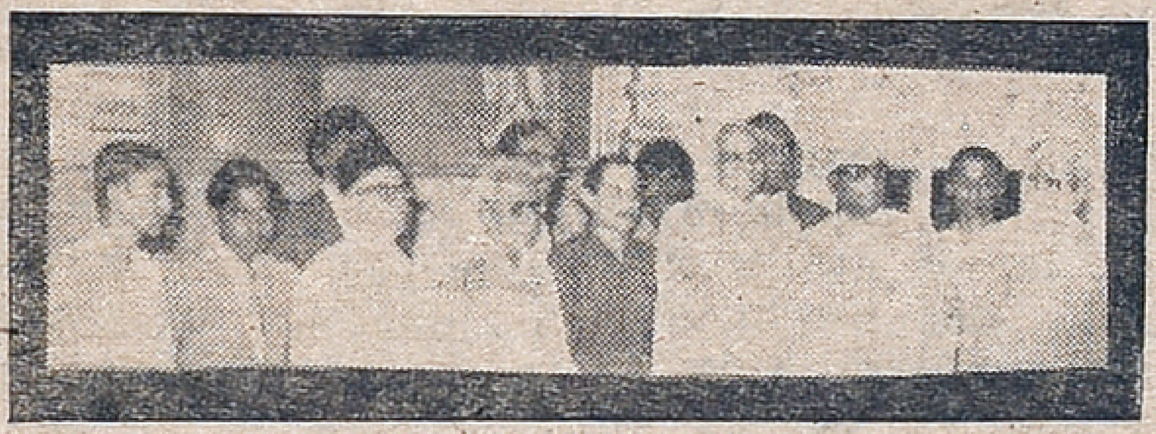
Comments By Vishnu

Thiru Rajaram, Labour Minister

My telephone rang early in the morning. The voice said "Mr Rajaram speaking. Thanks for the cutting from Free India. It was interesting". I was perplexed and to my further enquiries he said "you know Mr Rajaram Minister for Labour.". Suddenly I recognised the voice and understood.

How many ministers take the trouble to acknowledge personally something someone has taken the trouble to send them That's Mr Rajaram for you Always kind, courteous and soft spoken; also meticulous about being punctual for his appointments.

Thiru Rajaram is a trend-setter—one, others could usefully and effectively copy! Perhaps that's why people often go to him. One can be sure he will keep his word.



United Writer's Association

Emerson once wrote 'talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book."

Talented Thiagarajan is a man of good personality and youthful drive. He also has the ability to organise wel; indeed one of the most useful meetings I have attended was a seminar on "Education and the future of India."

He expects shortly to repeat his feat by organising a symposium on "Indian Economy Today" with Dr. V.K.R V. Roa. Chairman of the Institute of Economic Growth, to deliver the keynote address This will be under the auspices of the United Writer's Association. Undoubtedly he will assemble a galaxy of well known personalities to participate.

The United Writer's Association is also conducting an All India Essay Contest. The subject is "Education and the Future of India." The contest is open to the public, especially to college students. Attractive prizes will be awarded to the winners. Those interested may obtain further particulars from the Secretary of the Association, Rajan Buildings, 71 Mowbrays Road, Madras-600 018.

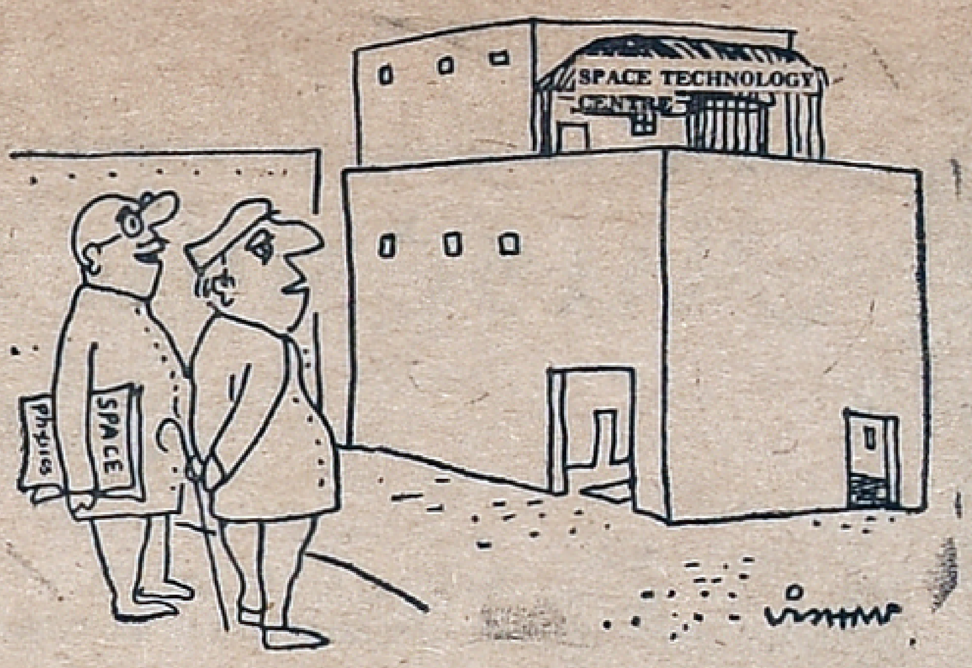
Sri Thiagarajan, himself a well known writer states:

"The history of voluntary humanitarian work is long and proud, rich and diverse. The individual gesture of human fellowship, the organised expression of community consciousness, the desire to eliminate all forms of suffering, to spread knowledge through effective writing, to bring about social justice and international peace and thereby uniting people are among the basic principles of the voluntary activity of the *United Writer's Association*. We cordiall invite you to join us in this vital humanitarian movement and look forward to your active and invaluable participal tion. We are sure you too wil-find it highly rewarding."

At a Seminar on Education organised by him, Sri Thiagarajan (extreme left) brought together a variety of persons with different areas of sp cial interest.

Picture shows from left to right are Sri K. Thiagarajan, Sri R. Balasundaram, Kulapathi Balakrishna Joshi, the late Sri A.G. Venkatachari, Vishnu, Sri Cheddi Lal, Sri M.J. Sethuraman and Dr. S.V. Ananthakrishnan.

(I was with the lat Sri A G. Venkatachari, Assistant Editor Dinamani, in his office about a week before his demise. His eyes sparkled behind his thick glasses. Yet he looked sad. He spoke of a colleague who had been ailing and had passed away recently. He spoke of a caesarean section operation and about one of his sons in England He spoke about progress in the field of family planning and about science reporting. He was so well informed and a good conversationalist. Within a week he had died in harness. His demise is a great loss.)



We will consider "Handshake in space" later; currently there is no room even for a handshake in the laboratory accomodation that they have provided us with........"

The Academic Hierarchy

A VICE-CHANCELLOR

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound, is more powerful than a locomotive, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water, gives policy to God.

A HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Leaps short buildings in a single bound, is more powerful than a shunting engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water if sea is calm, talks with God.

A PROFESSOR

Leaps short buildings with a running start and favourable winds, is almost as powerful as a shunting engine, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water in an indoor swimming pool, talks with God if special request is approved.

A READER OR SENIOR LECTURER

Barely clears a prefabricated hut, loses a tug of war with locomotive, can fire a speeding bullet, swims well, is occasionally addressed by God.

A LECTURER

Makes high marks on the wall when trying to clear tall buildings, is run over by locomotive, can sometimes handle a gun without injuring himself, dog paddles, talks to animals.

A GRADUATE STUDENT

Runs into buildings, recognises locomotives two times out of three, is not issued ammunition, can stay afloat with a life jacket, talks to walls.

AN UNDERGRADUATE

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter building, says look at the choo-choo, wets himself with a water pistol, plays in mud puddles, mumbles to himself.

A DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY

Lifts buildings and walks under them, kicks locomotives off the tracks, catches speeding bullets in teeth and eats them, freezes water with a single glance, she is God.

(Courtesy: The Times Higher Education Supplement March 7 1975 and Communicator April 1975.)

Karumuthu Thigaarajan

With my best wishes

Vishnu and Sri Kamaraj with the late Sri Karmuthu Thiagarajan. The picture was taken when Bank of Madura opened its Royapettah branch. Sri Karimuthu was a noted educationist, industrialist, connoisseur of the Arts and a philanthropist. He was the founder-director of the Sree Meenakshi Mills.

Several educational institutions were founded by Sri Karimuthu Thiagarajan.

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

SOVIET–INDIAN FRIENDSHIP MONTH

I was one of those who was present the other day at the Friendship House in Moscow for the opening ceremony of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Month, during which two glorious anniversaries were celebrated–the Fourth Anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and India, and the 28th Anniversary of India's Independence.

Representatives of the Moscow public and the staff members of the Indian Embassy and the Indian students at Moscow Higher educational establishments were also present on the occasion.

Among those who addressed the gathering included, Mr. Goldin, Minister of the USSR and President of the Soviet-Indian Cultural Society, and Mr. Peter Sinai, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, of India in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Nikolai Goldin said: "We feel very happy that Soviet-Indian friendship is a creation of the Soviet and Indian peoples themselves. These days thousands of Soviet factories, collective and state farms, research and educational establishments and ships' crews take an active part in conducting the Friendship Month initiated by the society. We are sure that this campaign will be a great and memorable event in the history of friendship between our two nations".

"The Soviet people" he further said, "are fully determined to continue promoting the development and strengthening of friendship between the USSR and India in the interests of both countries, for the cause of peace and progress".

Mr. Peter Sinai, speaking on the occasion, said that the friendship between the Soviet Union and India "dates back to pre-colonial times, when our national leaders were inspired by the ideals and aspirations of the Soviet people. The advent of freedom gave our countries the opportunity to get to know each other and develop fruitful cooperation in all spheres.

"We have witnessed the growth of the friendship between our two countries, contributing not only to the economic development in India, but also to the peace and prosperity of the Asian region. The economic projects set up in India with the assistance of the Soviet Union remain shining examples of the Soviet Union's willingness to help India attain economic independence".

In their message sent to the President of India Mr. Fakruddin Ali Ahmed and the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, congratulating them on the 4th Anniversary of the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty, the Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev, Nikolai Podgorny and Alexei Kosygin have expressed confidence that "friendship and fruitful and mutually profitable cooperation between the Soviet Union and India will steadily grow and expand on a firm foundation of the Treaty, for the benefit of the Soviet and Indian peoples and will serve the aims of consolidating peace, social progress and international security".

The message emphasised that "the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation started a new and higher stage in the development of diversified Soviet-Indian relations. The past 4-year period has demonstrated with all clarity the viability of this Treaty as an important instrument for consolidating peace in Asia and throughout the world".

Several Soviet newspapers have also carried special articles to mark the occasion. For example, PRAVDA said that it could be said with every reason now that the Soviet-Indian Treaty of 1971 had stood the test of the time. 'It opens very wide prospects for a further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two great peoples',

GREATEST CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

Just above I wrote something about a happy event. But here I am noting with pinching pain about the 30th anniversary of Hiroshima's atomic bombing, the greatest crime against humanity. You will recall that the atomic bombs that exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, killed or maimed 447 000 people. That mass murder of civilians was made much worse by the fact that the use of these barbarous weapons was militarily not necessary, and hence the bombing was an act of senseless brutality.

A British author Mr. R. Clark in his book "The Birth of the Bomb" has noted that "most people are convinced that the use of the bomb on Hiroshima could and should have been avoided. As for the plutonium bomb, dropped on Nagasaki, history will regard this as the greatest and grossest mistake of the war".

It is better to leave to the conscience of the people what the British author has termed as a "mistake"-the annihilation of hundreds of thousands of absolutely innocent people, an act thought up in cold blood and executed in a calculated manner. But the then U.S. President, Truman himself had admitted: "I saw, of course, that the bomb explosion of an atomic bomb would cause incredible destruction and casualities". Yet this did not deter him, and he did give, what one might call, the "criminal order".

The decisive factor in smashing the armed forces of militarist Japan and ending the bloodshed was, as is known, the Soviet Union's entry into the war. The American command knew that the USSR was to join in the war against the common enemy, because the schedule had been agreed upon among the Allies at the Yalta Summit Conference in February 1945. So why, on the eve of that, was it necessary to have such a savage display of devastating power?

The answer is simple: the use of atomic bombs was prompted by the ruling circles' desire to weaken the Soviet Union's positions in dealing with the post-war problems in Europe and Asia and to maintain their hegemonistic claims to leadership in world politics.

The 30th anniversary of Hiroshima's tragedy must remind all men of good-will of the dangers inherent in the use of nuclear weapons, and be a fresh impetus for invigorating the movement of all forces fighting for their prohibition and abolition.

The Soviet Union has proposed a conference of the nuclear powers with a view to agreeing on radical measures for nuclear disarmament; it has proposed a world disarmament conference where all the countries concerned might participate as equals. The Soviet Union gives every support to any national and international efforts aimed at combating the nuclear threat.

* * *

LASER BEAM IMPROVES HARVEST

In the current spring hundreds of hectares of land in the East Kazakh Region of the USSR were sown with unusual wheat and barley seeds that have been treated with laser beam. This is the first time that an experiment is being made on such a large scale.

"As result of numerous experiments in studying the bio-energy processes in plants, animals and man we have managed to develop new methods of resonance biostimulation of these processes", says V. Iniushin, Head of the Biophysics Department of the Kazakh University. "It has been established that even a short treatment with laser beam produces a considerable effect on living organisms. In particular, the pre-sowing treatment of seeds with monochromatic light gives a noticeable addition to the yields, and improves the quality of the plants. Thus, the sugar content is increased in sugar beet, and more vitamin D is accumulated in vegetables. The laser beam has also proved highly efficient in combating pests".

Kazakh scientists have already developed laser installations of several types. Some of them are capable of treating 50 tons of grain an hour, which means that large tracts of arable land can today be sown with such "activized" seeds.

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Let us get on with the job of nation-building

Tit-Bits On Men & Matters

By T. NEELAKANTAN, (General Knowledge Agency)

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR

Some of our countrymen have brought name and fame to our country by their extra-ordinary abilities and out-standing achievements Gurudev Tagore through his poetry, Sir C V. Raman through his physics, Mr. S. Ramanujam through his mathematics and Dr. Radhakrishnan through his philosophy have enhanced the reputation of our country among the intelligentia of the world. Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, another eminent Indian, has brought laurels to our dear motherland through his original contributions to Demography.

Dr. Chandrasekhar was born in 1918 in a family of scholars. Studying in the Voorhees College at Vellore, he passed the Intermediate examination with distinctions and won the prize for "All-round Proficiency". He then joined the Presidency College at Madras.

Even in his student days, his thoughts were on India's growing populati n and her grinding poverty. His essay on "India's Population Problems" was published in his college magazine and that essay won for him the Papworth Prize. He was a brilliant speaker too. He won the Lord Erskine Cup for Oratory in the college oratorical competition. Obtaining the M. A. degree, he worked hard for a year as a reserch scholar and received the M. Litt. degree. With the help of the Fellowships from the Universities of Madras and Columbia, Dr. Chandrasekhar went to the United States of America in 1940. There he studied Economics, Statistics, Sociology and Demography and obtained the Ph. D. degree from the New York University for his thesis on "India's Population Problem."

Completing his studies, Dr Chandrasekhar served as a Lecturer in some educational institutions and then as a specialist in Indian Demography in the office of the Strategic Service in Washington. He then toured from coast to coast, under the auspices of Pearls. Buck's East West Association, pleading for India's political freedom. He also contributed articles to the American Press, stressing the need for independence for his country. His services in this direction were so effective that a journal in Washington referred to him as "the unofficial representative and interpreter of India to the United States"

After a stay of about seven years in the United States, Dr. Chandrasekhar returned to India in 1947 and assumed charge as Professor in the Annamalai University. From the Annamalai University he went to UNESCO at Paris and was in charge of Demographic Research. Returning to India in 1950, he started the Indian Institute for Population Studies to promote demographic studies in our country. This was the earliest pioneering attempt in this direction. He then served in the Baroda University as a Professor and in the London School of Economics as a Nuffield Fellow in Demography. He participated in many international conferences held in England and the Continent. He wrote many books of which "Hungry People and Empty Lands", "Population and Planned Parenthood in India", "Infant Mortality in India" are considered by many as works of very high value and importance.

Through his lectures to the students in colleges, through his speeches to the common people in public halls and through his articles in the Press, he created an awakening among the people for family planning Presiding over the First All-India Conference on Population and Family Planning in 1951 at Bombay. Dr. Chandrasekhar delivered an extempore spe ch. That speech was so superb that almost all in the conference wondered at his mastery over the subject. Mr. Lakshmi N. Menon, who was then the Government of India Deputy Minister, attended that conference and in an article contributed to the "National Herald" of Lucknow said: "...The Presidential Address of Dr. Chandrasekhar reminded one of the torrential eloquence of M. Andrei Vyshinsky...The young Professor swayed the audience...And if the quality, quantity and force of words could alone help scotch the spectre of over-population, it would have happened that very evening...". He was invited to address public meetings, conferences and seminars at different times at different climes. He has so far spoken in 124 countries, including Communist China and Soviet Russia.

In recognition of his services, the Watumull Foundation in Honolulu gave him the Watumull Prize in 1964; the University of Redlands (California) awarded him Hony. D Litt. in 1965 and the Hungarian Academy of Medical Sciences honoured him with an Honorary M. D in 1969. He became the first recipient of the Kaufman Award in 1969. The University of the Pacific (California) while conferring a D.Sc., honoris causa, on him in 1969 said: "...As an Economist and Demographer, you prophesied the need for emergency population policies, long before the present world-wide awareness...The West has learned from the East in you and the East from the West...". He has made such a mark in the field of Demography that references about him and his services are found in the Times of India Who's Who, in the Asian Who's Who and in the International Who's Who.

At the suggestion of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Chandrasekhar was elected to the Upper House of India's Parliament in 1964. He became the Minister for Health and Family Planning in 1967 under the Prime Ministership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. With the missionary zeal of a dedicated public-worker, with expert knowledge of the subject and with abounding enthusiasm, he began to work as a Minister. He prepared the ground for his onerous task, by exposing the dire consequences of "Population Explosion" in our country. He said that India, an under-developed and over-populated country, with only 2.4 per cent of the world's land area, had to support 14 per cent of the world's population, with only 1.5 per cent of the world's total income. Pointing out that 55,000 babies were born every day in India, he said that unless and until agricultural and industrial productions increased and the population growth reduced considerably, there is no hope for a happy future. Getting into touch with people of different walks of life, like politicians, religious leaders, medical practitioners, social workers and others, he converted the family planning movement into a people's movement. Through informative and attractive posters, cinema slides, radio broadcasts, press announcements, spot announcements, dramas, mushairas, etc., he succeeded in convincing a large number of our people to take to family planning. As a result of his herculean efforts, the birth-rate in our country is much lower than before.

Such an eminent son of India, is now serving as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Demograph at the University of California. Though he is far away from us now, his thoughts are on our countrymen's welfare and progress. He is so much interested in his motherland that he once wrote —"In the India of my dreams, no citizen shall have to beg for his next meal; or sleep on the pavements of our city streets, nor live a life of illiterate darkness nor suffer from a curable or preventable disease; nor lead a demoralised life of enforced idleness. The future citizen of this ancient land will walk erect with pride in his past cultural heritage, dignity in his present position as a wanted and valued member of the community, and hope for an even better future of peace and prosperity for his children's children yet unborn into this world".

As a result of the efforts of our Governments, both at the Centre and in the State, our country is making progress in different fields. But the impact of that progress is not adequately felt, because of increase in our population. If our population growth is checked, if the people reap the benefits of the tremendous progress made in our country after independence and if our countrymen are happy and prosperous, Dr. S. Chandrasekhar will be highly pleased, in whichever part of the globe he might be.

Independence Day Meeting at House of Soviet Culture

V. S. KAMALA

"THE Soviet Union which has stood by India through thick and thin ever since our Independence, will always stand by us in future, too. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, signed four years back has strengthened further the bonds between the two countries", said Mr. N.D. Sundaravadivelu, President of the Tamilnadu State Council of the ISCUS presiding over a meeting, dedicated to the 28th Anniversary of the Indian Independence, organised jointly by the Cultural Department of the USSR Consulate General in Madras, ISCUS and Suprlya at the House of Soviet Culture on the evening of August 14th.

Mr. Sundaravadivelu, traced the friendship between India and Soviet Union, ever since the October Revolution and the links between the two countries even earlier.

Mr. P. Sabanayagam, Chief Secretary of the Tamilnadu Government, participating in the meeting, narrated the economic achievements of the country during the 28 years of independence and thanked the countries particularly the USSR, which have rendered considerable help for the progress of the country.

Mr Tarasov, the Vice-Consul of the USSR Consulate General in Madras, said that the "Soviet people appreciate and congratulate the Indian people for all their achievements during the period of independence". Paying tributes to the heroic struggle of the Indian people against the colonial yoke, he said that "India now occupies a worthy place in the International arena, and no major problem in world politics today can be solved without its participation."

Mr. Tarasov pointed out that "as a true friend, the Soviet Union sincerely rejoices in the successes of the Indian people and takes pride in the fact that on the basis of mutual advantage and bilateral cooperation, it is contributing to the economic development of India.

"The Soviet-Indian economic and trade relations is a striking example of business-like cooperation between states belonging to different social systems and the fact that India is a leading trade partner of the USSR among the developing countries demonstrate not only the mutual advantage of this cooperation, but also the progress of India."

Then Mr. Tarasov added that the 15-Year agreement of co-operation signed in Delhi in 1973, during the visit of L. I. Brezhnev to India, enabled India to achieve a considerable extent socio-economic progress.

Mr. Rajagopalan of Suprlya proposed a vote of thanks.

The Joys of Family Transport...

EPHRAIM KISHOW

SPEAKING for myself, I'm all in favour of marriage. There's a lot to to be said for it: you work like a slave but you know what *for*; you gradually accumulate a houseful of smart ki.s, you no longer waste your precious time on every doll, chick, and cutie—in short, you've come a long way from the lone, wretched creature you were in your happy bachelor days. For what does a man crave, after all? He craves for a woman to share life's burden with, someo e he can tell his troubles to So he marries, and from then on he's got something to tell already.

The particular troubles of this writer have to do with travels in the bosom of his family. The way things are I can drive my own car no more than a dozen yards before the little woman gives a loud little shriek, thus:

"Red! Red!" Or,

"Watch that bike! *Watch that bike!*"

These sidelong messages invariably come in pairs: the first with a bib exclamation mark the second in italics. Long ago I used to remind my wife sometimes that I hadn't single traffic offence point against me, that I'd been driving cars practically since childhood, that I had the same number of eyes she had, or even more, and that I could therefore get along very well without her italics.

About ten years ago, however, I gave it up. I've a right to some communication failure too, no? Especially as it's a purely emotional matter. The little women has four points for traffic offences herself, but with us the Points System does Not Operate.

Sometimes we're driving along a perfectly quiet street and suddenly the little one yells in my ear:

"Ephraim! *Ephraim!*"

In a flash I turn the wheel, mount the sidewalk, hit a couple of loud dustbins, and crash into the steel shutters of an anonymous laundry. I switch off what's left of the engine and look round me, and there's not a living soul to be seen, not one accident-prone vehicle anywhere. This street is as deserted as Upper Galilee.

"So why did you scream?" I ask my wife curiously. "*Why did you scream?*"

"You weren't concentrating."

And she adds with a groan:

"The way *you* drive! *The way you drive!*" and pointedly fastens her safety belt.

The Kids side with Mummy, of course. The first animal my small daughter Renana learnt to recognize was a zebra crossing. *A zebra crossing!* Her grandfather, too, likes to point out that I drive like a nut, *a nut*. The other day he took me aside and told me as man to man;

"Look, my boy, you've got your worries and all, why not let my daughter do the driving?"

Even the kids have learnt to declare in chorus from the back seat:

"Daddy, you're tense. Let Mummy..."

They keep sending me to all sorts of courses, and shatter my pride in other more subtle ways too. I've noticed that whenever I come home from work my middle son Amir calls out:

'It's only Daddy. Nothing's happened ..'

Why should anything have happened? And why only Daddy? Their four-point mother positively eggs them on. On every family drive she hisses: 'Oo, will I be happy if a cop catches you now, *Oo, will I be happy!*' Or, 'That'll cost you your licence, *that'll cost you your licence!*'

She can only relax, according to her, when she's at the wheel herself. As often as not she takes it away from me by force with a lot of drama and hysterics and to loud applause from the gallery. To date she's twice smashed into a truck and once into a piano, has felled a parking meter and run over countless cats. Four points.

"That," she explains after every accident, "is because I'm all flustered from your wild driving..."

Lately, even Max, our dog, has joined in the conspiracy like the bitch she is. At every sharp turn she sticks her head through the window and lets out two sharp barks: "Bow! *Wow!*" My wife says she means I should keep *both* hands on the wheel like everybody else.

Sometimes I get my bawling out ex post facto. After I've sailed smoothly and hitchlessly past a couple of peaceful pedestrians, the little woman asks in a voice dripping with irony:

"Did you see them? *Did you even see them?*"

Sure I saw them. Sure I saw them. Otherwise I d have hit them, no?

"What re you doing, for heaven's sake, *what're you doing?*"

"Forty-five kph."

"You want to end up in hospital?" *In hospital?*

Her crusing speed is 110 kph., which is just about the rate of her running comment, too. Last month she appropriated the car and whizzed off to the supermarket for some leben. On the way, a traffic light drove into her head on and turned the car into a recoilless accordion. The little one got out from under, pale but unshaken, though for weeks afterwards her accusing look followed me wherever I went.

'Imagine, you poor thing," the look said, "what would have happened had *you* been at the wheel, God forbid!" She has four points, as mentioned.

After several garage-bound weeks, the car has unfortunately returned to the bosom of our family. My driving has improted a lot, though, ever since I adopted the do-it-yourself method. It's sort of like preventive driving: I myself warn myself at every crossing in order to set the mind of my worried family at rest in advance.

"A stop sign in front of me I announce loud and clear while doing 30 kph., "*A stop sign in front of me!*"

Or "Not at amber, Ephraim, *not at amber!*"

And after taking a turn I mumble to myself: 'The way I drive! *The way I drive!*"

At least I've got peace in my car now. The wife sits tight-lipped, the kids despise me in silence, the dog barks twice, and I drive me slowly out of my mind.

Delightful Dance Recital of "Gita Govindam"

By M. A. SRINIVASAN

"Ratnakala Bhushna" Roshan Ghose gave a dance recital of Jayadeva's "Gita Govindam" at Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha, Triplicane, Madras, which was refreshingly different in many ways. Among the striking innovations were the use throughout of recorded enchanting music and explanations in English of the songs sung and danced to.

As is well known, the Gita Govinda is a dance drama about the loves of Sri Krishna and Radha. Written in wonderfully melodious Sanskrit, it describes separation, jealousy and reunion. In between, Sri Krishna recives news about Radha pining away in grief. And when he returns to her she shows her anger before surrendering to Him.

Jayadeva was a mystic and a devotee. It is said that he used to sing the songs that constitute the play, while his wife, Padmavati, danced to them in the temple of Jagannatha at Puri. There is even a tradition that one song in which the angry Radha is told by Sri Krishna that He will welcome being kicked on the head by her lovely feet, was first composed by Jayadeva in a mood of creative exaltation. Immediately afterwards he felt horified and deleted the stanza as blasphemous The story goes that Sri Krishna Himself appeared before Padmavati in the form of Jayadeva, took the palm leaf manuscripts and rewrote the stanza

Thus the "Gita Govinda" cannot be regarded as a human love-story. It has long been taken to be an allegorical representation of the mystic's progress from his initial contact with God, then the separation, when he passes through 'the dark night of the soul' to the assured communion with God, which he gains in the end, Radha stands for the individual soul and God as Sri Krishna teases it by playing a game of hide and seek with it.

The denseuse helped to recall the original setting of the dance drama by putting up a small image of Sri Krishna on the stage. She chose selected stanzas from the play, showing the separation of Radha from Sri Krishna, the messenger's description of her grief and the final reconciliation. The meaning of each stanza and its inner significance were first explained in English. Then came the song from the tape-recorder and Mrs. Ghose danced herself "singing" the song.

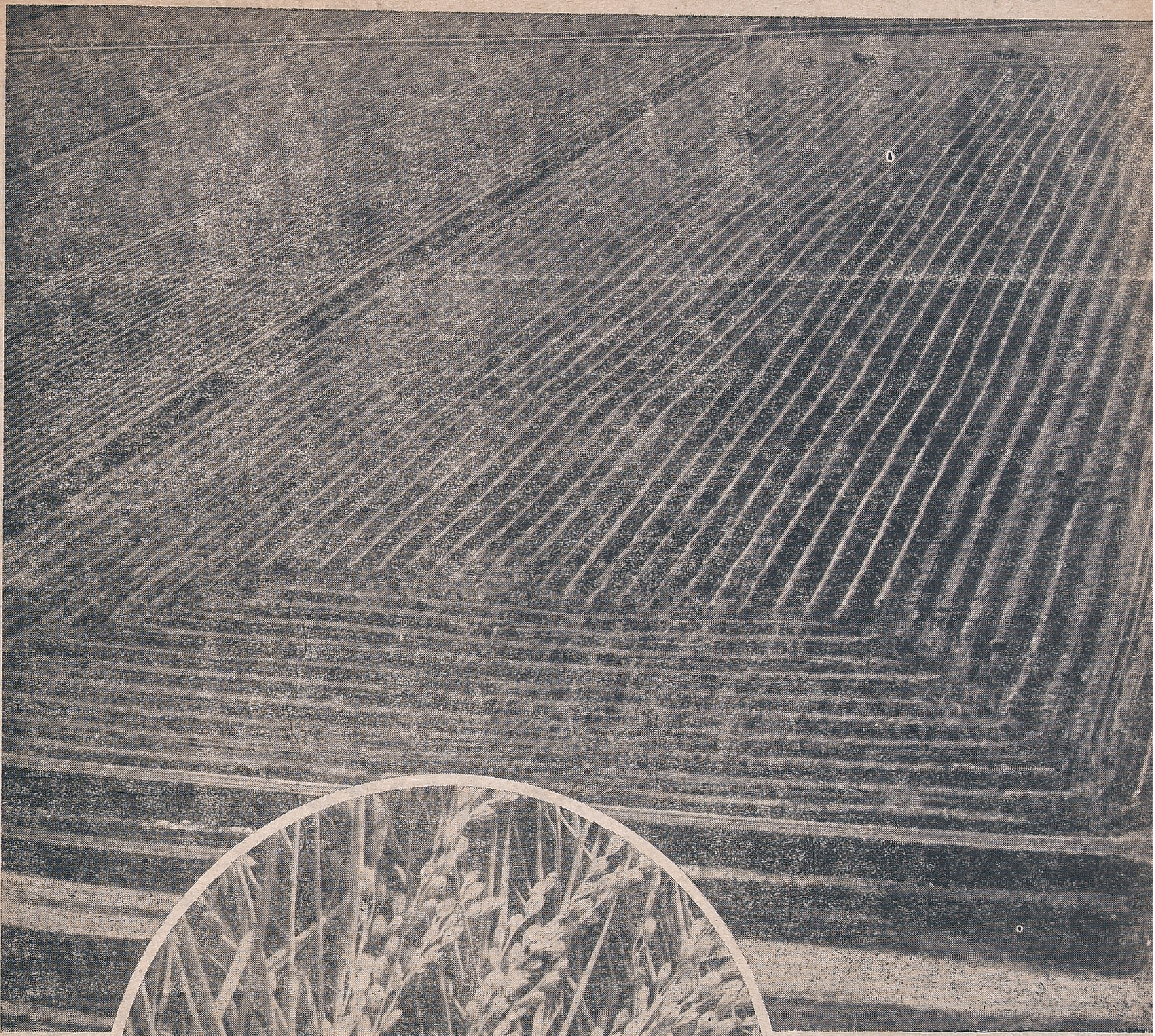
The performance was thus mono-acting and dance with explanatory comments. Those who looked forward to pure classical Bharatanatyam might have found simplifications and some gestures indicative of natural acting rather than stylized dance. But more people must have understood the songs, the sentiments and the dances conveying them from Mrs. Ghose's recital than from a classical Bharatanatyam performance. The performance was thoroughly enjoyable and left an indelible impression of that great classic and the lilting melodies, in which it was rendered by the artiste.

The only magic to Remove poverty is Hard work.

Form page 3

ble to hope that consumption will increase.

The satisfactory behaviour of the monsoon so far and the much improved availability of power, fertilisers, seeds and pesticides provide the right backdrop for kharif production to surge forward. Specific problems faced by each State have been sorted out at the recent meeting of the Union Agriculture Minister with the Food Ministers of States. The increase in kharif production this year should, in turn, strengthen the tendency towards the decline in the general price level. The general price index depends to a large extent on the behaviour of agricultural prices. It is no small relief that farmers are presently not facing the nagging problems of either shortage of essential inputs such as fertilisers, seeds and pesticides, or a niggardly monsoon. —AIR



This Paddy-Field spreads over an area once full of reeds

It is harvest time in the paddy-fields of the Kuban territory.

From page 2

farm as well as throughout the Kuban lies in the development of high-yielding, early-maturing rice varieties, in the further mechanisation and automation of work in cultivating and harvesting the crop. The new varieties which farmers will receive in the near future from agrobiologists of the USSR Rice Scientific-Research Institute (Krasnodar) promise a further increase of 10 centners of grain in the yield per hectare (the present yield is 65-70 centners per hectare).

In 1974 Kuban rice growers harvested about 700,000 tons of rice. Today the farmers, land-amelioration workers and scientists of this territory are tackling a gigantic task—that of producting one million tons of rice in 1980.

The Dolphin is Looking For A Friend

By YELANA IVANOVA

"I am confident that before long we will be able to use dolphins as postmen, life-savers and guides showing divers the way to sunken ships," says Professor Andrei Shevelyov, D.Sc., (Biology)

In May 1966, The Soviet Union, and Then Bulgaria and Rumania, adopted decisions to halt dolphin hunting in the Black sea.

Man has repeatedly found proof of the dolphin's kindly attitude towards him. Can the dolphin become man's assistant?

Soviet researchers are seeking an answer to that question.

The Georgian Branch of the All-Union Research Institute of Marine Fishery and Oceanography has a dolphinarium in the city of Batumi on the Black Sea coast. Under the supervision of Professor Andrei Shevalyov, D.Sc., (Biology), a team of young scientists there is probing into the dolphin's ability to reason.

Professor Andrei Shevalyov said:

"During the earliest stages of man's evolution, transition of the Primates' ancestors from an ordinary community of animals to a higher form—a community based on the performance of some work—served as an important stimulus in the development of the brain's reasoning. Collective hunting—the chase, round-up, driving in and ambushing of game—called for the development and perfection of complex forms of group behaviour, behaviour based on reasoning.

"Joint efforts in the babits of other animals should also develop an ability to reason. A higher organisation of joint effort distinguished certain cetacean speies, the dolphins included. I here refer to dolphin hunting fish schools in herds.

"I am inclined to think that the high development of the dolphin's brain and the dolphin's complex forms of behaviour are the result of a centuries-long evolution of community based on joint effort.

It is this 'sense of collectivism' that explains much of the dolphin's behaviour, its striving to communicate with man. Instances of friendship between dolphins and humans are well known. For example, engineer Lysenko, swimming out to sea once met with a dolphin cub, which, afterwards, many days in a row, approached Lysenko for a 'rendezvous' when he was again swimming in the same area. And after the engineer had left, the little dolphin continued to appear at the shore on the 'lookout for his 'friend'.

"What you see here is not a circus number, not simply a show for spectators". Shevalyov emphasized. We simply seek to develop in the dolphins the skills which would disclose to the fullest their abilities. I am sure that in the not distant future dolphins will work as mail carriers, rescuers, and guides that will lead divers to sunk ships."

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